

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EAS.29
Historic Name:	Eastham Town Hall
Common Name:	
Address:	2500 State Hwy
City/Town:	Eastham
Village/Neighborhood:	Eastham Center
Local No:	15-061
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	Wales, George Canning
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial Revival
Use(s):	Auditorium; Town Hall
Significance:	Architecture; Community Planning; Politics Government
Area(s):	EAS.B: Eastham Center Historic District
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (5/12/1999)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Brick; Wood Foundation: Brick; Concrete Unspecified



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on:

Friday, May 15, 2015 at 4:26: PM

FORM B - BUILDING

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's
Number

15/061

USGS Quad

Orleans

Area(s)

B

Form Number

29

Town

Eastham

neighborhood or village)

2500 State Highway

c Name

Eastham Town Hall

resent

Municipal

original

"

Construction

1912

See Bibliography*

orm

Colonial Revival

ct/Builder

George C. Wales

r Material:

Foundation

Brick (Main Block)
Concrete (Rear Addition)

Wall/Trim

Brick

Roof

Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition

Good

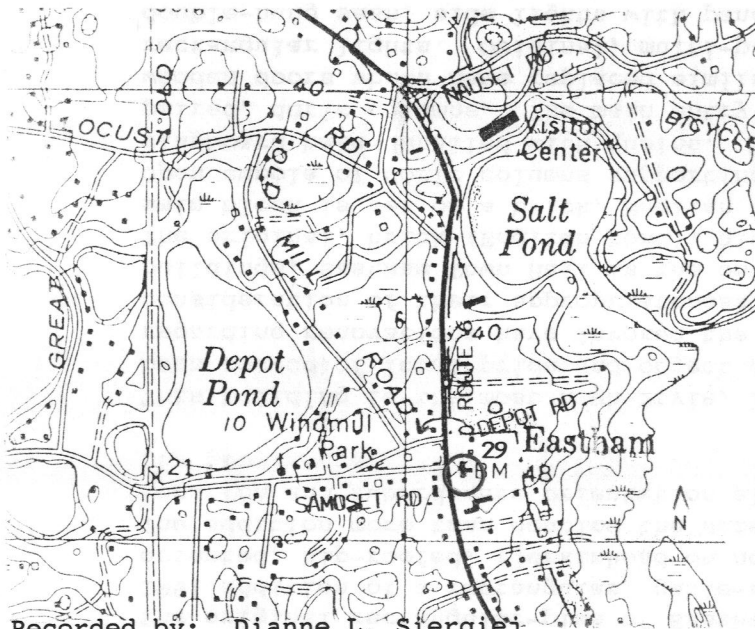
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage

2.2 acres

Setting Located in a densely-settled, mixed-use, section of Route 6, the major, Cape Cod, inter-community thoroughfare, the former county road and a continuation of the original Old King's Highway.

here. Indicate North.



Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergie

Organization: Commonweal Collaborative

Date: June 1995

RECEIVED

SEP 20 1995

MASS. HIST. COMM.

BUILDING FORM

2500 State Highway

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION See continuation sheet.

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The original rectangular-plan of Eastham Town Hall has been expanded by the 1951 addition of a rectangular, gable-roofed, rear ell and perpendicularly-oriented, hip-roofed, (jerkinhead on north elevation) auditorium. The addition more than doubled the size of the structure, but its rear location and subordinate orientation allow the original building to retain its prominence.

This building is the most high-style, local building and has consistently been source of local pride and object of respect. Periodic discussions regarding renovations have invoked the intentions of Timothy Smith in consideration of their appropriateness. Other than the modern municipal buildings, Eastham Town Hall is the only brick building in town. The original, brick (English bond), hip-roofed, Colonial Revival, 7 x 2-bay, main block is set on a brick, English basement. The roof is centered by an open cupola of doric columns supporting a domed roof set on a frame, square, clapboard base detailed with quoins. The pedimented portico is braced by paired, doric columns. The main entry consists of double-leafed, flush, wooden doors which have replaced similar, wood panel doors with larger, rectangular lights. Original, multi-paned transom and double-row, 6/6, double-hung sash, side lights with paneled aprons remain. Fenestration consists of 3/3, semi-circular, double-hung sash set in molded trim surmounted by a corbeled arch and underscored by a recessed brick panel set above a water table. The rear ell and auditorium have oversized 6/6, double-hung sash.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE X See continuation sheet.

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Eastham Town Hall built in 1912 replaced a small (38.5' x 28.5'), gable-roofed, frame building erected in 1851. Previously, town meetings had been held in local churches. The former town house remains after renovation and several alterations as a residence at 5 Salt Pond Road. The 1911 Eastham town meeting voted an annual payment of \$200 for 8 years to any individual willing to build a suitable town hall. Timothy Smith, an Eastham native and successful businessman, however, donated the new building in the memory of his family.

The new Town Hall was built at a cost of \$15,000 on 1.5 acres of land either donated by or purchased from by Maria Cobb. Its dedication on May 22, 1913 was a major, public celebration including speeches, musical selections by the Leutz Orchestra and the Harvard Quartet of Boston, an informal reception with ice cream and cake as refreshments. A demonstration of the gas lighting system (donated by locals, J. B. Steele, A. May Knowles, Frank I. Knowles, Captain Edward Penniman of Eastham along with Charles O. Smith of Boston and Charles O. Knowles and A. W. Knowles of Topeka, Kansas) was a marvel of the day.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES X See continuation sheet.

 X Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;

If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

In 1912, the town appropriated \$1,400 to Timothy Smith for establishment of a fund for the maintenance of the town hall.

The original town hall consisted of two offices which flanked the center entry foyer and a small meeting hall. Bronze wall plaques commemorating the founders of Eastham were presented to the town by various family associations. The dedication ceremonies were attended by then Lieutenant Governor Calvin Coolidge who unveiled the plaque honoring Governor Thomas Prentice, one of the original settlers of Nauset (now Eastham) and Governor of Plymouth Colony in 1634 and 1638 while residing in Plymouth and from 1657 to his death in 1673 while being allowed to maintain his new residence in Eastham.

In 1951, a new auditorium was constructed at the rear of the building at a cost of about \$73,000. It has been replaced as an assembly hall for town meetings by the larger auditorium at Nauset Regional High School in North Eastham.

Timothy Smith (b. Eastham, May 27, 1835; d. April 8, 1917) was the son of Ruth Knowles and Timothy Smith of Dyer Prince Road. He married Ellen Brett then worked in a store in Harwich before moving to Boston in 1862. With his cousin, James Knowles, son of Seth Knowles of Fort Hill, he established the Timothy Smith Company on Washington Street which became one of the largest department stores in Roxbury. All of Timothy and Ellen Brett's children failed to live to adulthood. Both Smiths died on the same day and are buried in Union Cemetery Brockton where they at one time owned a home. With the demise of Ellen Smith on the same day as her husband, the Smith Estate of more than \$300,000 was disbursed in accordance with the will of Timothy Smith to many charitable, social service, educational, cultural and non-profit institutions and organizations including schools, hospitals, several Congregational churches, homes for the aged and disabled and the Roxbury Historical Society. In Eastham, a fund of \$25,000 was established with income to be used to support the needy, purchase books for the library and provide educational scholarships for Eastham men and women. This fund apparently also provides resources to be used for maintenance of the town hall.

A portrait of Timothy Smith was donated to the Town of Eastham in 1968 by Ralph U. Brett of Harwich, the grandnephew of Ellen Brett Smith. Ralph U. Brett, having succeeded his father, Ralph B. Brett, who had taken the job after the death of James Knowles in 1922, was the last president of the department store where the portrait had hung. Ralph U. Brett had commissioned the portrait by Dean Ellis of Cleveland then a student at the Museum of Fine Arts. Timothy Smith Company closed on April 4, 1953.

Eastham Town Hall is currently undergoing an extensive rehabilitation that has gutted the interior.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

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Resident and Business Directory of Cape Cod, 1901.

Roger, Josiah, Knowles, Elijah and Kinsman, Simeon. Map of the Town of Eastham, 1794.

*Various newspaper articles, photographs and records. Vertical file, Town Hall, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

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Wallings, Henry F. Map of Eastham. Boston: D. R. Smith Co., 1858.



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

EAS.29

Town

Property Address

Eastham 2500 State Hwy

Area(s)

Form No.

EAS 29

BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT—DISTRICT POLICE
 PLAN RECORD

CASE B	RACK 7	APART 6	NO. 12969
BUILDING	Town Hall		STORIES 1
CITY OR TOWN	Eastham	STREET	
TO BE USED FOR	Town Hall	CLASS	Misc
OWNER	Town of Eastham		Hall
ARCHITECT	Geo. C. Wales		Brick
CERTIFICATE APPROVAL — SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS — REFERRED			
DATE	Apr. 17, 1912		
INSPECTOR	Saunders		

FORM 41. 5,000. 2-25-12.